

MEETING SUMMARY

REGIONAL LAW, SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RLSJC)

Thursday, May 26, 2011

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Acknowledge Jen Albright

For her services to staff the RLSJC over the past year, Judge Bonner acknowledged Jen Albright with a gift certificate. Jen has accepted a position in the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

Stand With Those Who Serve – Carrie McNally

John Partridge, Auburn City Council, and Cynthia Tobias introduced Carrie McNally, Seattle Police Detective, and the “Stand with Those Who Serve” event that aims to acknowledge all levels of law enforcement officials and their families. Much of the work of law enforcement goes unnoticed, and little recognition is given to the families that support and serve with them.

This multi-jurisdictional event, scheduled for August 13, 2011 at the Criminal Justice Training Center, will highlight what law enforcement/military agencies do and what support is available. There will be demos, vendors, food and entertainment. See attached flier for additional information.

Seattle Community Court and Day Reporting – Tricia Lapitan and Rich Cook

The Seattle Municipal founded the Seattle Community Court (SCC) in 2005 and began the Day Reporting Program in 2006 to save criminal justice/jail costs, to increase public safety and to better serve the community. Target participants are low-level, high-need defendants serving frequent sentences for quality of life crimes. Tricia Lapitan reported on SCC and Rich Cook presented information on the Day Reporting Program.

The SCC handles low-level misdemeanors, primarily theft, criminal trespass, prostitution, and alcohol-related offenses. Defendants are screened by the City Attorney’s Office for eligibility and must opt into the community court. Defendants receive community service sanctions, are assessed for social service needs, and must make contact with the identified social service links. SCC has received national recognition and was selected in 2009 as one of three mentor sites by the Bureau of Judicial Administration. Overall success rate from 2008 to 2010 is 51 percent.

The Day Reporting Program initially served pre-sentence defendants, but expanded to include post-sentence defendants in 2008.

Please see attached presentation handout and Community Court brochures for detailed information about these programs.

King County 2012 Budget Preview – Dwight Dively

Dwight Dively, Director of the King County Office of Performance Strategy and Budget, presented a preview of the County's 2012 budget.

- Looking back, the County General Fund had a \$60 million gap to fill in the 2011 budget. Most General Fund agencies took budget cuts of approximately 10 percent, and 90 percent of County employees gave up COLAS for 2011 to close the budget shortfall.
- Looking forward to 2012 and beyond, the County expects ongoing challenges due to revenue restrictions that will not allow revenues to keep pace with inflation and population growth. There is good news, however, in recent tax revenue growth and reduced growth in health care costs.
- Current County budget planning does not include General Fund budget cuts for 2012. However, Executive Dow Constantine had requested all county agencies find 3 percent annual efficiencies as a long-term strategy to contain the County's cost growth.
- For further detail, Mr. Dively's presentation handout is attached.

City of Seattle 2012 Budget Preview – Beth Goldberg

Beth Goldberg, Director of the Seattle City Budget Office, provided an update to the City budget. Seattle has some good news, too, but different from the County.

- The economy is showing signs of stability, but the recovery is shallow. Revenue instability makes it more difficult to respond to financial challenges.
- Challenges include limited reserves, federal and state budget cuts that have reduced funding support to the City, potential public defense caseload standards, and internal policy considerations.
- Seattle will make modest mid-year 2011 adjustments and the Mayor has asked for a range of reductions from City departments for 2012. 2012 budget development will prioritize public safety and human services, and will explore options for re-tooling how services are delivered.
- For further detail, Ms. Goldberg's presentation handout is attached.

Other Committee Business

None.